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ANGOLA'S U.N. BID AND THE U.S.

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES THE REASONS BEHIND THE UNITED STATES VETO OF ANGOLA'S UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP BID.

VOICE: STATED IN ITS SIMPLEST TERMS, THE UNITED STATES VETO STEMMED FROM WASHINGTON'S CONVICTION THAT ANGOLA DOES NOT AS YET MEET THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP. BEHIND THAT CONVICTION IS THE INCONTROVERTIBLE FACT OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AN AFRICAN STATE WHOSE GOVERNMENT IS DEPENDENT ON THEM FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE, LONG AFTER OTHER FOREIGN FORCES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN.

A BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP IS THAT THE APPLICANT NATION, IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CUSTOM, BE A FULLY INDEPENDENT STATE. IT IS APPARENT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA DOES NOT MEET THIS STANDARD. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR (ALBERT) SHERER PUT THE AMERICAN CASE IN THESE TERMS:

"THE CONTINUING PRESENCE AND APPARENT INFLUENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS, MASSIVE IN NUMBER IN THE ANGOLAN CONTEXT, IS THE BASIS FOR OUR VIEW. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION," HE SAID, "FOR SUCH A LARGE AND ARMED FOREIGN PRESENCE IN A TRULY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE." THOSE TROOPS, AS FAR AS THE WORLD CAN ASCERTAIN, REMAIN THERE, DESPITE PROTESTATIONS BY HAVANA THAT THEY ARE BEING GRADUALLY WITHDRAWN.

AMBASSADOR SHERER SAID IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT ANGOLA HAD MADE ITS UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP BID AT THIS TIME. HE SUGGESTED THAT A DELAY WOULD HAVE ALLOWED TIME TO ESTABLISH WHETHER AN ACTUAL CUBAN WITHDRAWAL IS TAKING PLACE.

THE POINT IS THAT THE CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT'S ACTUAL FREEDOM OF ACTION. THE TRADITIONAL UNITED STATES FORMULA FOR RECOGNITION OF ANY GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY, IS THAT IT EXERCISE FULL CONTROL OVER ITS TERRITORY AND THAT IT BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

RECOGNITION, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS MADE CLEAR, IN NO WAY IMPLIES APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A REGIME'S IDEOLOGY OR OF POLICIES THAT MAY RUN COUNTER TO THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES VETO--AT LEAST FOR NOW--HAS BLOCKED ANGOLA'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IF LUANDA CAN PROVE THAT IT IS MASTER IN ITS OWN HOUSE, THE UNITED STATES WILL VOTE AGAINST ITS ADMISSION AGAIN. ON THE CONTRARY, IF AND WHEN THE CUBAN TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN, THEN THE UNITED STATES WILL RECONSIDER BOTH ITS DECISIONS-- ON RECOGNITION AND ON U.N. MEMBERSHIP FOR THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT. FOR WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED THAT ONLY A FULLY INDEPENDENT ANGOLA CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE U.N.'S WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY.

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